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California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

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Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)

San Francisco Bay Living Shorelines Project

The Nature Conservancy Land, Marin County, California
and Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, Alameda County, California

On February 9, 2012, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) received an application from the California Coastal Conservancy (Applicant) requesting Federal Clean Water Act Section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities associated with subtidal restoration and monitoring of the pilot project *San Francisco Bay Living Shorelines*.

Approximately 895 cubic yards of fill will be placed over 0.16 acres of open water below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line and along approximately 2,093 linear feet of shoreline. The fill material will consist of oyster shells, bamboo stakes, concrete, and PVC plastic at the following two restoration pilot sites:

- (1) on The Nature Conservancy (TNC) property which is owned by the TNC and located along the western shoreline of San Rafael Bay along the eastern margin of the Marin Peninsula in northern San Francisco Bay, south of San Rafael.
- (2) on the Eden Landing Ecological Reserve (ELER) which is owned by the Wildlife Conservation Board and located near the eastern shore of South San Francisco Bay near the San Mateo Bridge.

The project purpose is to restore habitat through the following objectives:

- 1) Conduct experiments to determine the best way to establish native oysters and eelgrass.
- 2) Compare the effectiveness of different restoration treatments.
- 3) Determine changes in invertebrate, fish, and bird populations.
- 4) Determine the importance of different types of treatment.
- 5) Evaluate the subtidal restoration project area and its functions.
- 6) Evaluate subtidal features to reduce water flow velocities, attenuate waves, and increase sedimentation.
- 7) Determine if location influences species establishment and growth.
- 8) If possible, compare restoration treatments to armored shores.

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The Applicant has applied for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) Nationwide Permits 27 (Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities), pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) for the proposed Project. The California Coastal Conservancy is the lead agency for CEQA, and determined that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA.

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received within a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andree Greenberg at (510) 622-2324 or AGreenberg@waterboards.ca.gov wi